

What is claimed is:

1. A clip for sheet materials comprising:  
a clip member defining a hinge portion, first and second finger  
5 portions extending from the hinge portion, and a ratchet  
portion formed on at least one of the first and second finger  
portions, where  
the clip member is made of resilient material such that the  
clip member may be deformed from a normally open  
10 configuration into a closed position, and  
the first and second finger portions do not engage each other  
when the clip member is in the open configuration and  
the first and second finger portions engage each other  
when the clip member is in the closed position; and  
15 a collar member defining a latch portion, a lever portion, a latch  
opening, and a housing interior, where  
the collar member is made of resilient material such that  
applying a force to the lever portion causes the collar  
member to deform from a normally engaged  
20 configuration to a disengaged configuration, and  
the latch portion extends into the housing interior through the  
latch opening when the collar member is in the  
engaged configuration and is withdrawn from the  
housing interior through the latch opening when the  
25 collar member is in the disengaged configuration;  
whereby  
the clip member extends through the housing interior such that  
when the collar member is in a first position relative to the  
clip member, the clip member is in the open  
30 configuration;  
when the collar member is in a second position relative to the  
clip member, the collar member acts on the clip  
member to place the clip member in the closed  
configuration; and

when the collar member is in the engaged configuration, the latch portion engages the ratchet portion to allow movement of the collar member towards the second position and inhibit movement of the collar member towards the first position, and

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when the collar member is in the disengaged configuration, the collar member may move between the first and second positions.

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2. A clip member as recited in claim 1, in which:  
the collar member further comprises a belt portion; and  
the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping portions, respectively; whereby  
when the collar member is in the second position, the belt portion  
extends around the first and second finger portions at a  
15 location adjacent to the first and second gripping portions.

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3. A clip member as recited in claim 1, in which:  
the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping portions, respectively; and  
at least one of the first and second gripping portions defines a line notch adapted to receive an edge line of the sheet material.

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4. A clip member as recited in claim 1, in which:  
the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping portions, respectively;  
at least one of the first and second gripping portions defines a line notch adapted to receive an edge line of the sheet material;  
and  
the first and second gripping portions define at least one line tooth;  
whereby  
the line tooth defines at least a portion of a line projection adapted  
to engage the edge line of the sheet material.

5. A clip member as recited in claim 4, in which:  
the first and second gripping portions define first and second line  
notches, respectively; and  
the first and second gripping portions define first and second line  
teeth, respectively; whereby  
the first and second line teeth define a line projection adapted to  
engage the edge line of the sheet material.

10 6. A clip member as recited in claim 1, in which:  
the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping  
portions, respectively;  
the first and second gripping portions define first and second sets of  
gripping teeth, where the gripping teeth each define first and  
second slanted surfaces and teeth points; whereby  
15 when the clip member is in the closed configuration, at least some  
of the teeth points of the teeth in the first set engage slanted  
surfaces of the teeth in the second set.

20 7. A clip member as recited in claim 1, in which:  
the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping  
portions, respectively;  
the first and second gripping portions define first and second sets of  
gripping teeth, where the gripping teeth are curved; whereby  
when the clip member is in the closed configuration, the gripping  
25 teeth engage the sheet material.

8. A method of gripping sheet materials comprising the steps  
of:  
providing a clip member made of resilient material and defining a  
30 hinge portion, first and second finger portions extending from  
the hinge portion, and a ratchet portion;  
providing a collar member made of resilient material and defining a  
latch portion, a lever portion, a latch opening, and a housing  
interior;

arranging the clip member within the housing interior of the collar member such that the collar member may be in first and second positions relative to the clip member, where, when the collar member is in the first position, the clip member is in an open configuration in which the first and second finger portions are not forced towards each other and, when the collar member is in the second position, the collar member forces the first and second finger portions towards each other to place the clip member in a closed configuration;

configuring the collar member such that the collar member is normally in an engaged configuration in which the latch portion extends into the housing interior through the latch opening and applying a force on the lever portion of the collar member places the collar member in a disengaged configuration in which the latch portion is withdrawn from the housing interior through the latch opening;

arranging the sheet material between the first and second finger portions; and

placing the clip member in the second position and the latch portion in the engaged configuration such that latch portion engages ratchet portion and the first and second finger portions grip the sheet material.

25        9. A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the steps  
of:  
            placing the latch portion in the disengaged configuration such that  
            the latch portion does not engage the ratchet portion; and  
            releasing the sheet material by moving the collar member into the  
            first position to allow the first and second finger portions to  
            move away from each other.  
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10. A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising the steps of forming first and second gripping portions, respectively.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the steps of forming a line notch is adapted to receive an edge line of the sheet material on at least one of the first and second gripping portions.

5 12. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of forming first and second sets of gripping teeth on the first and second gripping portions, respectively.

10 13. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of forming first and second sets of curved gripping teeth on the first and second gripping portions, respectively.